

## 1897

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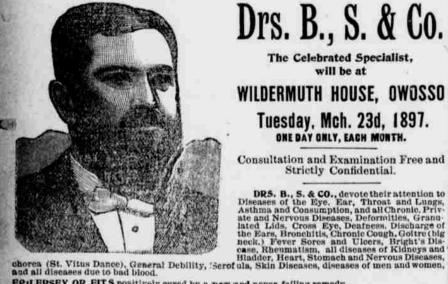
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#### LACK OF "LEARNING."

PRESIDENTS WHO WERE NOT EDU-CATED IN SCHOOLS.

Andrew Jackson Could Not Spell Correctly-Few Presidents Have Been College Bred, but All Were Well Informed. The President's Bible.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, March 8.-A writer on eratory recently called attention to the fact that Garfield was the best educated of the presidents. Now that we have a new president, the statement still holds good. But I don't believe Garfield was any better informed than President Mc-Kinley. Few of our presidents have been college bred, though almost all have been men of good education. Andrew Jackson was illiterate-almost as illiterate as he was positive-and thereby hangs a tale which has come down to me from one old department clerk through another. It hinges on the fact that the president in early days not only signed land patents, but passed on the accounts of officers in the consular serv-

This old clerk, whose name was Mus-tin, had charge of the accounts of the consular officers. To him came one day a consul who had arrived in the morning and was anxious to get away from Washington on the afternoon of the same day. He had his accounts made up, and he handed them to Mustin, with the statement that the president had seen them and said they were all right. There was no indorsement on them, and Mr. Mustin declined to audit and pass them to the treasurer until the president's name was written across the back. The consul hurried to the White House, much annoyed. Apparently the president was quite as much put out by the necessity of handling so much red tape, for he wrote across the back of the account: "Correct. Andrew Jackson. Let this fiat be obeyed." But unfortunately he wrote fiat with an "o" instead of an "a," so the injunction lost much of its dignity and force. The "fiot" of An-drew Jackson is on the files of the treas-

ury department to this day.

Mustin was hardly more than a pensioner toward the close of the war. He came to the office every day, but he did very little work. He had positive opinions on politics though, and he was a strong Lincoln man. It happened that most of the people in the office with him were opposed to Lincoln's renomination, and one of them, taking the old man aside, said: "I wouldn't be so pos-



MRS. M'KINLEY ACCEPTING THE BIBLE. itive in my expressions of opinion if I were you, Mr. Mustin. The administration may change, you know."

"It can't change any quicker than I can," said the old gentleman cheerfully. Fortunately he was not compelled to change, but no doubt he could have adapted his political views to any emergency. That has been the way of his

The supreme court people were much amused when the present Kansas state government took office to read that the new state officers objected to being sworn in by the old method of kissing the Bible because they believed the custom spreads disease through disease germs transmitted from one person to the book and from the book to the next person whose lips touch it. The disease germ has become a bugaboo in medical circles, and every time some one has blood poisoning from contact with a roller towel or with paper money-like the bookmaker in New York who died because of the habit of holding money in his mouth-the germ is brought out and paraded for public entertainment.

The President's Bible.

Usually the book used at the inauguration of a president has been one purchased for the occasion by Clerk Mc-Kenny of the supreme court. Mr. Mc-Kenny is a figure in the inauguration ceremony, though a modest one. He hands to the chief justice of the supreme court at the proper moment the Bible on which the president elect is to take the oath of office. Mr. McKenny talks interestingly about the Bibles on which the presidents have taken the oath. He has officiated at every inauguration since that of General Grant. He was not clerk of the court at the time of Hayes' inauguration, but he was selected to pres-ent the Bible on which Mr. Hayes was sworn in to Mrs. Hayes in accordance with the invariable custom to present the volume to some member of the president's family as a souvenir.

Mr. McKenny presented the Bible to Mrs. Hayes in one of the parlors of the White House. As was customary, he had marked as the president's lips touched the book the page and the pas-sage. Mrs. Hayes, when he told her this, said, "I hope Mr. McKenny will be kind enough to read the verses aloud." Several members of the presi-dent's family were present. Mr. Mc-Kenny opened the book at the place he had marked and read, "And they oppress me—yea, they persecute me—but is back in California, but he is not orin the name of the Almighty God will I ganizing a company to exploit the D. destroy them." Mrs. Hayes smiled and explosive.

body will be destroyed." Then she took the Bible, asking Mr. McKenny to con-vey to Mr. Middleton, the clerk of the court, whom he represented, her warm-

The Bible on which President Elect Grant took the oath was presented to Mrs. Grant. The Garfield Bible was presented to Mrs. Garfield by Mrs. Mc-Kenny March 5, 1881. The Arthur Bi-ble was presented to Miss Nellie Arthur.

Up to the time of the first inaugura-tion of Mr. Cleveland it had been the custom of the clerk of the supreme court from time without record to buy a new Bible for the inauguration. Mr. Mc-Kenny bought a Bible for the Cleveland inauguration. It was a large octavo, morocco bound, and it came wrapped in tissue and incased in a stout pasteboard box. There was no chance of germs or microbes getting at its pages. Therefore it was not for sanitary reasons that the president elect refused to use it. Mr. Cleveland is not credited with being a sentimental man, but he has a vein of sentiment in him, and it came to the surface when he sent word to Clerk Me-Kenny that he wanted to take the oath on a shabby little Bible which his mother had given him when he started out to shape his own career. Mr. McKenny is a bit of a sentimentalist himself. So when President Elect Harrison was to be sworn in he would not use the Bible he had bought for the Cleveland inaugu ration, but purchased a brand new book, leaving the Cleveland Bible to become one of the relics of the supreme court files. President McKinley was sworn in, as you know, on a Bible which was the gift of the African M. E. church.

The Fertile Promoter.

The new secretary of war, General Alger, told me the other day that he had lost \$45,000 within the last year through the unfortunate investments of a man whose business he capitalized. If General Alger is disposed to use his money as freely for the relief of indigent congressmen who have "sure things" needing a little capital, he will find opportunities enough. Washington is one of the best fields for the promoter in the whole United States. Senators and members of the house who are impecunious have no conscience about going to their wealthier colleagues and asking them to subscribe to the stock of ventures in which they are interested. The people they have "struck" most often are Brice of Ohio and Cameron of Pennsylvania, and there was a wail from the poverty stricken when these two "good things" left congress on the 4th of March. Next to these two rich easterners the wealthy Californians have been visited by the promoters most frequently. Men like Stewart and Jones of Nevada are known as good speculators. Stewart is not a "producer," although he is always ready to go into anything

involving a risk. Some time ago a member of the house was trying to get capital to establish a factory to make a new explosive. This sort of thing appeals to men in congress because they know the government can be persuaded to buy large quantities of an explosive if it is good and their in-fluence with the appropriations commit-tees of congress will be of great value in getting the matter through. The explosive in which the Massachusetts man was interested was very remarkable, to judge from the tests made, and the member had little difficulty in interesting a number of capitalists in it. To-ward the end of the session of congress he called on one of the California senators and urged him to subscribe for some stock. He commended the explosive especially for use in mines.

"I'm not a practical miner," said the senator, "but here are two members of the house, B. and C., who are. Perhaps you can interest them."

How It Worked.

at the other side of the room, were called over, and the virtues of the explosive were explained to them.

"If it will do all you claim for it," said C., "I will not only subscribe, but work up an interest for you in California. But I want to ask about one thing. Many of these explosives have been invented. All of them go off with a great noise and display enormous force. But the difficulty with all of them is this: In exploding they create a gas which is dangerous to life, and this gas so fills the mine that work has to be suspended, sometimes for a day or two, until the gas can be pumped out.'

"That is all right," said D., who had the explosive in charge. "I inhale the gas from this explosive every day." And to prove what he said he put some of the explosive on the register in the floor, and leaning over seemed to inhale the fumes.

"Let me inhale it," said C. More of the explosive was put on the register,

and C. took a good lungful. "It seems harmless," he said. Thereupon an appointment was made for the

following morning.

Toward noon of the following day C. came into the office of the senator. His face was yellow, his hands shook, his legs gave way under him at every third

"Can you tell me what happened yesterday?" he said to the senator's clerk. "I have a dim recollection of being here, but I remember nothing else except my dreams. My wife tells me I have been out of my head, and I have seen the most wonderful things I ever saw in my What happened? Did I have a life. fight? Did any one hit me on the head?" "Well, I can't remember that any-thing like that happened," said the "You were here with B. and D. of Massachusetts, and D. showed you an explosive. I believe you both inhaled

"That's it! That's it!" cried C., doing a war dance around the room. "It was that explosive. Where is D.? Where can I lay my hands on him? I'll skin b'm alive!'

Fortunately D. did not keep the engagement, so his skin is still intact. C. is back in California, but he is not or-

GEORGE GRANTHAM BAIN.



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STATE OF MICHIGAN.

At a session of the Probate Court for the county of Shinwassee, held at the Probate Office, in the city of Corunna, on the 15th day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Prabate.
In the matter of the estate of John T. Cooper,

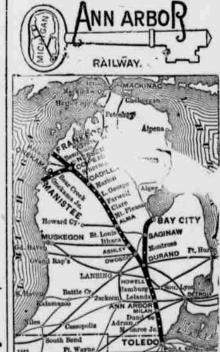
In the matter of the estate of John T. Cooper, deceased.

John W. Dewey, administrator of said estate, having rendered to this court his final account. It is ordered, that the 15th day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be appointed for examining and allowing said account.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in The Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said county of Shiawassee.

MATTHEW BUSH,

BY KATHERINE E. KELSEY, Probate Register.



TIME TABLE IN EFFECT OUT. 25, Trains leave Owosso as follows:

NORTH.	SOUTH,
No. 1, 10:05 a. m. No. 3, 7:20 p. m.	Daily except Sunday No. 2, 9:00 a. m. No. 4, 5:48 p. m.
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